



## Fact Sheet:

# Alcohol Use



### Use Prevalence in California

- An estimated 14.6 million Californians over 12 years old used alcohol in the past month. (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, State Estimates of Substance Use 2003-2004, National Survey on Drug Use and Health)
- About 5.9 million adults in California are binge drinkers (men who drank five or more drinks, or women who drank four or more drinks in a row at least once during the past month). Over 2.2 million met the criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse. (Ibid)
- Among middle and high school students, 12% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 23.8% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 35.8% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders had used alcohol in the past 30 days, which represent notable declines in the past five years. (Eleventh Biennial California Student Survey 2005-06)
- Binge drinking was unchanged since 2004 for 7<sup>th</sup> graders (5%) and 9<sup>th</sup> graders (12%), and declined 2% in 11<sup>th</sup> graders to 21%. Binge drinking is the norm for almost half 9<sup>th</sup> grade drinkers and 2/3 of 11<sup>th</sup> grader drinkers. About half of 11<sup>th</sup> grade binge drinkers (1/3 of all 11<sup>th</sup> grade drinkers) binged weekly. (Eleventh Biennial California Student Survey 2005-06)
- Two or more alcohol dependency symptoms were reported by 5% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 13% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Further, 19.8% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders and

- 29.6% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders had either driven while drinking or ridden with someone who was drinking. (Ibid)

### Cost

- There were 3,691 alcohol-induced deaths in California in 2004. (California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, 2006)
- In 2004, drunk driving was the cause of 1,326 fatal and 20,872 injury traffic accidents in California.
  - 1,462 people died.
  - 31,538 people were injured.
 (California Highway Patrol, 2004 Annual Report of Fatal and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions)
- The California Attorney General's Criminal Justice Statistics Center reports that, in 2004, there were 5,715 felony drunk driving arrests. There were also 177,056 arrests for misdemeanor drunk driving, 99,795 arrests for misdemeanor public drunkenness, and 26,116 arrests for misdemeanor liquor law offenses.
- Alcohol abuse costs the State about \$22.5 billion annually. This estimate takes into consideration loss of productivity, health care costs, prevention and treatment costs, criminal justice costs and losses due to a crime. (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, December 2000. California State Department of Finance, California Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and State 2005)

## Alcohol Use

- There were 44,937 admissions to treatment primarily for alcohol abuse in 2004/05, which accounted for 19.9% of all treatment admissions:
  - 68.7 percent were males
  - 31.3 percent were females
  - 60.1 percent were 31-50 years old

(ADP CADDs data FY 2004-2005)

- In most treatment programs the majority of abusers abuse more than one substance.

(Ibid)